

**WE CLAIM:**

1. A method of recording and printing user data on a printed medium, comprising the steps of:

- 5                   a.       encoding the user data to form an encoded user data array **A**;
- b.       modulating user data array **A** using a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>m</sub>**, to form a modulated data array **E**;
- c.       formatting data array **E** to produce a pixel-based two-dimensional barcode array **B**; and
- 10                  d.       printing barcode array **B** onto said portion of the printed medium,
- wherein the recorded and printed user data is distributed evenly across said portion of the printed medium.

15                  2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user data is encoded so that user data array **A** additionally comprises a fiducial signature.

                  3. The method of claim 2, wherein the fiducial signature comprises a recognizable signature texture and a signature pattern.

20                  4. The method of claim 1, further comprising step (e) superimposing onto barcode array **B** a formatted version of a two-dimensional signature array **C**.

                  5. The method of claim 4, wherein in step (a), the user data is encoded so as to have a signature texture incorporated therein, and further wherein signature array **C** contains a signature

25                  pattern bitmap modulated using a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>c</sub>**.

                  6. The method of claim 5, wherein the two-dimensional kernels **K<sub>m</sub>** and **K<sub>c</sub>** are the same.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein signature array **C** comprises a signature texture array modulated using two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>c</sub>**.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein in step (a) the user data is encoded so as to have a signature pattern incorporated therein, and further wherein, signature array **C** contains a signature texture modulated using a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>c</sub>**.

9. The method of claim 9, wherein two-dimensional pseudo-random kernels **K<sub>c</sub>** and **K<sub>m</sub>** are the same.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising in combination with step (c) formatting and superimposing onto formatted data array **E** a second two-dimensional modulated data array **E'**, wherein data array **E'** is produced by modulating a second data set with a second two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel, **K'<sub>m</sub>** and barcode array **B** is produced by the superimposition of formatted data array **E'** onto formatted data array **E**.

11. A readable barcode made using the method of claim 1.

12. A readable barcode made using the method of claim 2.

13. A readable barcode made using the method of claim 4.

14. The readable barcode of claim 13, wherein up to approximately 80% of the barcode has been obfuscated.

15. The readable barcode of claim 14, wherein the obfuscation is caused by overlaid text or graphics.

16. The readable barcode of claim 14, wherein the obfuscation is caused by damage or partial destruction of the printed medium.

5           17. A method of reading user data stored on a printed medium according to the method of claim 1, comprising;

- a. scanning barcode array **B** to obtain data array **E**;
- b. demodulating data array **E** with a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>d</sub>** that is related to **K<sub>m</sub>**, to obtain user data array **A**;
- c. decoding user data array **A** to obtain the encoded user data.

10           18. A method of reading user data stored on a printed medium according to the method of claim 2, comprising;

- a. scanning barcode array **B** to obtain an uncorrected version of data array **E**;
- b. demodulating data array **E** with a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>d</sub>** that is related to two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>m</sub>**, to obtain an uncorrected version of user data array **A**;
- c. transforming the uncorrected version of user data array **A** using the fiducial signature contained therein to produce a corrected version of user data array **A**; and
- d. decoding the corrected version of user data array **A** to obtain the encoded user data.

19. A method of reading user data stored on a printed medium according to the method of claim 4, comprising;

- a. scanning barcode array **B** to obtain a raw scan;
- b. demodulating the raw scan with a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel  $K_c$  that is not related to two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel  $K_m$ , to obtain an uncorrected version of signature array **C**;
- c. transforming the raw scan using the uncorrected version of signature array **C** to obtain a corrected version of data array **E**;
- d. demodulating the corrected version of data array **E** with a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel  $K_d$  that is related to two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel  $K_m$ , to produce a corrected version of user data array **A**; and
- c. decoding the corrected version of user data array **A** to obtain the encoded

user data.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein steps (a) through (c) are performed iteratively on subsections of barcode array **B** and signature array **C** contains a signature texture and a signature pattern.

21. A method of reading user data stored on the barcode of claim 14 comprising the steps of

- a. scanning barcode array **B** to obtain a raw scan;
- b. thresholding the raw scan;
- c. demodulating the thresholded raw scan with a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel  $K_c$  that is not related to two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel  $K_m$ , to obtain an uncorrected version of signature array **C**;
- d. transforming the raw scan using the uncorrected version of signature array **C** to obtain a corrected version of data array **E**;

- e. demodulating the corrected version of data array **E** with a two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>d</sub>** that is related to two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>m</sub>** but not related to two-dimensional pseudo-random kernel **K<sub>c</sub>**, producing a corrected version of user data array **A**; and
- c. decoding the corrected version of user data array **A** to obtain the encoded user data.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising iteratively repeating step (c) on subsections of barcode array **B** and signature array **C** contains a signature texture and a signature pattern.